

Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0018]:

[0018.1] FIG. 1c is similar to FIGS. 1a and 1b and illustrates how the treatment catheter and inner sheath enter the outer catheter in a parallel manner.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] FIG. 3c shows an alternate embodiment of the embolization protection system wherein the inner sheath 120 and the treatment device 130 are inserted parallel to one another through the outer catheter 102 rather than in a coaxial relationship. This parallel arrangement allows the inner sheath 120 and the treatment device 130 to be advanced and retracted or exchanged independently of one another. The inner sheath 120 and the treatment device 130 may both pass through the suction lumen 160 of the outer catheter 102. Alternatively, one or both of the inner sheath 120 and the treatment device 130 may be inserted through a dedicated lumen 166, 168 within the shaft 104 of the outer catheter 104, as shown in FIG. 3d. FIG 1c illustrates that the treatment catheter 130 and inner sheath 120 enter through treatment port 116 in parallel when they pass through outer catheter 102 in parallel as in the embodiments of Figs. 3c and 3d just described.